

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President and members, fellow esteemed members of the Legislature, Senator Cudaback and Senator Robinson say that 309 fund is the most important. Well, may or may not be but let's talk about the Natural Resources Development Fund. I don't believe anybody has talked about that. I think some of you have probably talked to Steve Oltmans from the Papio NRD. For every dollar we spend on water conservation, soil erosion conservation, these projects, for every dollar we spend there's a three or four dollar return on our investment. Next time we have a big rain in eastern Nebraska there will be floods and there will be property damage and people will say, well why didn't we spend more money for flood control. And the Governor will get out his Emergency Fund and we'll save a lot of people. So, Senator Robinson, Senator Cudaback, everybody has their own pet project, but somebody has to say something about the Natural Resource Development Fund. So there's a million dollars worth of bait out there for the Natural Resource Development Fund. I suppose the Appropriations Committee puts out the trailer fund, advances the trailer fund so everybody can say, I voted against spending. So this is a good chance to vote against spending and go home and tell your constituents what you've done and I suppose I expect that to happen. But I do want to tell you, for every dollar we appropriate to the Resources Development Fund, there's a local agency also putting money in it and the return on our investment come flood time will be three and four dollars for every dollar we spend. So there's also an increase in the mainline budget and I certainly hope that stays. But this is bait. This fund has been neglected over the last 15, 20 years. The Natural Resources Commission has almost given up on the Legislature because this doesn't matter when you compare it to developmental disabilities, when you compare it to ADC, when you compare it to Medicaid. Those programs can grow by leaps and bounds and double in five, six years, but the Resource Development Fund gets their steady 2 million a year and it's not enough. And so we do have some increase in the mainline budget and this is a little more, probably not going to happen, but at least it's some bait out there and you can say you voted against something. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature,